Ride with the Armor & Cavalry

THE UNITED STATES ARMY ARMOR BRANCH IS THE COMBAT ARM OF DECISION.

We are the premier mounted maneuver force comprised of the best trained, best led, best equipped, and most lethal Tankers and Scouts in the world. Soldiers first, we are experts in the art of maneuver warfare; mounted and dismounted reconnaissance and security operations; and the employment of combined arms and joint capabilities on the battlefield.

Armor and cavalry troopers thrive in conditions of ambiguity, uncertainty, and complexity; comfortable away from the main body --- out front or on the flanks --- and decisive when leading it. We operate with a mission command mentality always seeking opportunities to seize, retain, and exploit the initiative; creating and preserving freedom of action for our force while denying the enemy options.

Armor and cavalry leaders combine the superior capabilities of our equipment with the ingenuity of our Troopers to find, fix, close with and destroy the enemies of our nation through combinations of mobility; precise, lethal, and overwhelming firepower; and devastating shock effect.

Armor branch is a team of teams ready to fight and win anytime, anywhere, under any conditions of battle.

FORGE THE THUNDERBOLT!

Thunderbolt 7 Thunderbolt 6

I AM ARMOR

I came of age as a mounted arm of decision at Cowpens, during our war of independence- surprising Tarleton's brigade and driving them from the battlefield. I later served as a commander's eyes and ears- locating, probing, and dispersing the enemy throughout the War of 1812 and into the American Civil War. The exploits of Forrest, Mosby, Custer, Sheridan, Stuart, and other proponents of fast-moving decisive warfare and tactics, developed and refined, strengthened the Union beyond Appomattox and the hostile hour.

On Europe's Western Front in 1918 my fledgling Tank Corps was the mechanized force that helped bring victory, Over There. After World War I, I matured as a tank organization, crafting combined arms teams with Tankers and Infantrymen. At Fort Knox, I pioneered a new type of organization built around the tank. Through hard work and large-scale maneuvers, I developed revolutionary principles of organization, command and control, and battlefield operations that became the foundation of today's Armor.

In 1941 I battled the Japanese defiantly in the Philippines. I rose above defeat at Kasserine Pass to drive the Germans from North Africa. I freed Sicily and contributed to Italy's liberation from Fascism. In my Sherman tanks I doggedly pushed beyond Normandy, defeating elite German forces. In the snow and ice of the Ardennes, I blocked the German offensive and relieved Bastogne. I crossed the Rhine River at Remagen and loosened the tyrant's grasp on Germany. I led the American columns as they raced through northern Italy after the fall of Rome. I pursued the Germans in their retreat from France, and linked up with our Russian allies at Torgau.

War in Korea came as a surprise in 1950, when my Shermans again saw service defending the Pusan Perimeter. I beat back North Korean attacks before leading the United Nations counteroffensive that drove to the North Korean capital. When the Chinese intervened, I protected the columns of UN Soldiers during their withdrawal. For the rest of the war, I ensured no communist offensive would break our lines and secured South Korea's freedom. In my jeep, Chaffee tanks, and halftracks, I secured our flanks and rear area, always probing for mines and enemy infiltrators.

In Vietnam I hunted the Viet Cong and NVA with my M48s, M113s and Sheridans. On desolate road- ways I defeated ambushes. I drove through the jungles, clearing safe trails, destroyed his safe havens and defeated him wherever I found him. I developed new counterinsurgency tactics that drew the enemy to fight—and lose. I protected convoys, conducted cordon and search missions, and hunted the enemy wherever he went-day and night.

During the Cold War, in my M60 mount I stood guard along West Germany's borders- a reminder to the Soviet horde that any invasion would meet formidable resistance. The Fulda Gap was my sector and Germany became my second home. I was the tripwire to provide early warning of any Warsaw Pact invasion and disrupt hostile forces, while my American and NATO brethren practiced Airland Battle and rehearsed their battle plans.

In 1991 I took my M1 Abrams and Bradleys to war, tasked to liberate Kuwait from Iraqi occupation and secure the Saudi kingdom. I fought the Republican Guard and left them shattered at the foot of Medina Ridge. My presence was enough to make Iraqi units surrender en masse. I led the advance of the VII Corps through the sandstorms and Iraqi defenses, leaving in our wake the smoke plumes of many enemy armored vehicles. At 73 Easting, I drove through Iraqi defenses and overran their positions without stopping.

In 1995, I crossed the Sava River into Bosnia to enforce the peace. In 1999, I accompanied NATO forces when they entered Kosovo to protect another emerging nation from the horrors of civil war. I served in Bosnia and Kosovo and along the Macedonian border to preserve peace in the Balkans.

I was the steel wave that crossed into Iraq in March 2003. I battled my way to Baghdad and conducted the Thunder Runs that toppled Saddam's evil regime. I set the stage for the birth of a new Iraq. I shaped the battlefield and set the conditions for victory. I fought militias, insurgents, and terrorists in the desert and in the cities. I bled to make a better tomorrow for Iraq. I used my scout skills to find terrorists wherever they lurked. I was an emissary of democracy but I used my combat skills to crush those who sought to sow the seeds of chaos and anarchy.

I helped build and train the Afghan National Army, and together we took the fight to the Taliban in the mountains of Afghanistan. I trained their scouts and mounted soldiers, and showed them how best to employ their Russian vehicles and weapons. Through my actions and sacrifice I showed the Afghans an alternative to a future of poverty and violence.

"The Combat Arm of Decision always stands ready to destroy the enemies of our Nation"

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